



# The Shadow at Evening

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## **The Shadow at Evening** Chris Walley

In the spirit of C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, The Lamb among the Stars series weaves the worlds of science and the spirit, technology and the supernatural into something unique and haunting. On the faraway planet of Farholme, humans live in peace under the gentle rule of the Assembly. War and evil are ancient history. But suddenly, almost imperceptibly, things begin to change. Slowly a handful of men and women begin to realize that evil has returned and it must be fought.

## **The Shadow at Evening Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2004 by Tyndale House Publishers (first published 2002)

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Author : Chris Walley

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## **From Reader Review The Shadow at Evening for online ebook**

### **Bradley says**

A great series that makes you think: What would a world without sin really be like? What if we were unfamiliar with doing wrong, uninfluenced by evil, then suddenly confronted with temptation? How would an entire society respond?

This book takes the millennial kingdom of peace (but stretched out over many thousands of years) then brings the evil back in. How would you deal with someone you realized for the very first time was lying to you? How would you deal with keeping a promise when you no longer wanted to keep it? A very imaginative and well thought out story. Very entertaining and thought provoking.

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### **Carissa Norris says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I so want to read the next one! It took me a little time to get into this book, but I am glad I hung on. It picks up right before the middle. I would say this first part of the book is all the slow set-up so that you are immersed in the world and get the rest of the series. I found the most challenging part of this book relating to a perfect world with perfect people. Since I don't live in a perfect world, it was hard to wrap my mind around and connect to the characters. But that is part of the fun of the book--trying to put myself in the characters' shoes. The lack of freedom felt at first distasteful, but then I realized that I, in fact, would hate a world where everyone did exactly what he wanted. There are many things I think people should not do and thus, I understood what would move a society to protecting people and ourselves with specific rules. It was much harder to buy into the idea that humanity would ever free itself of sin. But I put myself into the world and imagined it and it got easier.

A warning: When I went to find the second book, I discovered the first and second books were repackaged together in a book called The Shadow and the Night. I am going to buy an earlier copy of the second book called The Power of Night, then I can read the next books in the series.

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### **Megan says**

This book (and entire series) is epic. It considers a society that has been free from evil for over ten thousand years and is now beginning to be infiltrated by it once more. It brings up some very interesting thoughts about the evils that are normal, everyday things to us.

The characters are precious and endearing between their fight to rid their world of evil once again, their personalities, and their newfound flaws.

The first book or two take some time to pick up the pace, but that in itself is vital to the overall plot.

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### **Kevin Porter says**

Shadow at Evening is a really enticing book about a young man on the planet Farholme, a distant planet that

could be described as in the frontiers of the galaxy. Farholmers soon begin experiencing weird phenomena, and it is soon found out that aliens have invaded the planet secretly, and have plans to not only take the planet, but the entire unified galaxy.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is into sci-fi, especially Christians.

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### **Josiah says**

Plot:

Writing:

Vocabulary:

Level:

Illustrations:

Rating:

Worldview:

Playlist: "Also sprach Zarathustra" - Strauss, "All heaven declares" - Richards & Richards, "The war between the seed" album - Peacocke & Sandquist

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### **Patience Jones says**

Good Christian fiction is rare, and good Christian sci-fi even rarer, so this is a very welcome find. It has a strong plot, is clearly Christian without being preachy, and is one of the few Christian fictional books I have read which has actively challenged me to be more holy. It's not a spoiler to say that the setting does depend very heavily upon a particular eschatological interpretation. However, as someone who holds a different opinion I didn't find that this interfered with my enjoyment of the book.

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### **Jeffrey says**

An interesting story, with ideas that have great potential, but don't quite reach their heights... at least in this first book of a series. I'm hoping things get more and more involved as it goes on. The dialogue is pretty stiff, and doesn't sound like real humans speaking to each other half the time, but the ideas are certainly intriguing and the mystery is well-done so that I wanted to find the answers.

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### **Chibuzo Iwuagwu says**

absolutely great. the greatest science fiction, and i think christian fiction i have read. among the best fiction i have read ever. it sparked my interest in space travel and technological progress as well as thoughts on the dangers of personal corruption. brilliant book. would love to read it again, and more walley books. great.

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## **William Inniss says**

Outstanding new genre of Christian SciFi

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## **Sara Diane says**

Any book that says "in the tradition of Lewis and Tolkien" on the front is setting itself up for the big leagues, and in this case, Walley is still very much in the minors. It's more future sci-fi than fantasy (as the front also proclaims), set in the year 13851. I had some trouble getting into the story, first because the premiss is rather illogical given what we know of mankind, history and the future (the world is not going to get better but we are slowly moving towards and are even in the final days), and second because the very idea of seeding other planets for human life is so against the ideals that Lewis presented in his own Space Trilogy.

But once Walley dropped a lot of the forced platitudes of a future Christian society, the story flowed better and even got interesting. While it's not epic fantasy, or even epic sci-fi, it was a diverting story with a few compelling characters. And of course, a possible love triangle, which I have already determined the best outcome, and now I'll have to read the rest of the series to see if Walley messes it up or not :P

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## **Michael E. says**

I enjoyed this book, and found it an interesting read. The Author has done a good job of creating a human world thousands of years in the future. At first, I didn't buy into the premise that man could live for hundreds and thousands of years without evil, but I eventually accepted it, and engaged in the story. The book is very well written, and the characters were very well expressed. I was certainly drawn to the four main characters. I enjoyed the sci-fi aspects of the book as well. The author did a great job of explaining things in enough depth so as make things believable

My major criticism for this book is that the story is not complete. The book just ends, and the story is still hanging, obviously setting thing up for the next book. This bugs me so much, it almost causes me to deduct one full star from the rating. Ugh...

It seems every author these days loves to write series books, but I have to say it's becoming tiring. In my opinion, if you are going to write a series of books, each volume should stand on it's own. Maybe the books of the series get tied together, and maybe the enjoyment of books can build as you read more books in the series, but I am annoyed when I get to the end of a 380 page book only to have no closure and no resolution. Really? Yes, a few authors have pulled this off successfully, but those authors are very few. J.R.R. Tolkien is one; Francine Rivers is another... Most of the time, if an author draws me into reading their "series", I'm sick of it after the second or third volume. In this case, I'm on the fence if I will read the remainder of the series or not. It was a good story, so perhaps I will.

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## **Sandra Barfield says**

I loved this series. That said, I do not believe that there is much in it that is similar to C. S. Lewis's space

trilogy other than that they are Christian books about the End Times.

The beginning of the book is very difficult to get through. Walley seemed to be trying too hard to show a society without sin. However, later in the series, I was able to appreciate this as it showed a stark contrast to life after sin was reintroduced.

My favorite thing about this series is that it encouraged and reminded me to live my life in a Christlike way. It is so easy to forget the impact of spiritual forces in our lives. I do not think that this book is an accurate portrayal of how events will happen in the future, but I don't believe that was the point of the book anyway. It is a fascinating glimpse into what a world without sin might be like. May Jesus come quickly!

The Lamb Among the Stars was clearly written for Christians; it would be very difficult for someone who does not have a Christian background to understand a lot of what is going on. The whole preface of the book is a group of worlds made up entirely of Christians who don't suffer as much from the effects of sin, so a non-Christian would be very frustrated by a lot of the concepts as they are alien concepts.

I hope you enjoy this book and the others in the series as much as I did!

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### **Joyce says**

I thought this was pretty good--not the same level as C. S. Lewis or J. R. R. Tolkien, which is how it's touted--but the story is believable and interesting, and is structured within a definite Christian understanding (well, one take on Christian understanding, anyway) of the universe & history. Lewis's Space Trilogy has some parallels, although the language & story seem less likely to appeal to today's adolescents (despite that I think Lewis's writing is much better).

I thought that the character development was kind of shallow and predictable, although the plot was pretty good and the suspense builds as the story progresses. Since it's a series, I realize that some ends that don't seem tied up enough (e.g., his relationship with his original girlfriend) but that the author might have something else up his sleeve.

Although the way romantic relationships are portrayed is kind of a relief from the too explicit and unsavoury treatments all too common, the naivete about the whole matter seems pretty unrealistic.

Anyway, I was happy to read the 2nd book, and am trying to track down #3 & 4 to put on the library shelves. It does seem like the kind of Christian science fiction that teens would enjoy, and deserves more of a reading.

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### **Sarah says**

I was skeptical when I read the cover comment "In the tradition of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien", but now that I have finished the first book in the Lamb Among the Stars series, I agree with the summation. The author's geological background is apparent in the detail he puts into descriptions, and the scope of the universe he has created is amazing.

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## Jessica says

Imagine a future that today's generation can only dream of. A trillion people live under the gentle rule of The Assembly on over a thousand inhabited worlds. Peace and stability have reigned unbroken for nearly twelve thousand years, and war and evil are merely ancient history.

But everything is about to change. On Farholme—a Made World at the very edge of the Assembly—strange things are happening. A girl sees an impossible creature, a stranger from Ancient Earth arrives in response to a troubling vision, and people begin to say, do, and think things that oppose everything The Assembly stands for. And slowly, incredulously, a handful of men and women come to recognize the unthinkable: Evil has returned once more, and it must be fought.

The Shadow at Evening is a triumph of imagination. The first volume in a fantastic epic in the spirit of C.S. Lewis's Space Trilogy, it weaves together the worlds of science and the spirit, technology and the supernatural, into something unique and haunting.

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